

# **KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

## **STAFF NOTE**

### **Action/Consent Item:**

Appointment to the State Textbook Commission

### **Applicable Statute or Regulation:**

KRS 156.405 (2)

### **Action Question:**

Should the Kentucky Board of Education approve the recommendation for appointments to the State Textbook Commission?

### **Background/History:**

***Existing Policy.*** In accordance with KRS 156.405(2), the Kentucky Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the chief state school officer, approves the appointments of members to the State Textbook Commission for terms of four years. Two appointments are made each year with the exception of four appointments made every fourth year.

The State Textbook Commission oversees the state adoption process for textbooks and instructional materials. It consists of ten members who represent the various areas of the commonwealth--two (2) parents, two (2) administrators, five (5) teachers, and one (1) higher education representative. Their responsibilities include approving substitutions, establishing the state multiple list, approving membership for a statewide review team, and developing an evaluation instrument for each adoption group with the assistance of the review team.

Individuals currently serving on the Commission are as follows:

Rhonda Boyd, teacher, Georgetown Middle School, Georgetown (Scott Co.)  
L. J. Harville, teacher, Belfry Middle and High School (Pike County)  
Denishia Martin, teacher, Warren East High School, Bowling Green (Warren County)  
Jennifer Mattingly, principal, Rockcastle County High School (Rockcastle Co.)  
Natalie Stiglitz, higher education faculty, University of Louisville, Louisville (Jefferson County)  
Mary Mills-Turner, parent, Munfordville (Hart Co.)  
Dennis Pearce, parent, Lexington (Fayette County)  
John W. Hardy, administrator, Campbell County Schools (Campbell County)  
Karen Roberts, teacher, Longfellow Primary School, Mayfield (Graves Co.)  
Katrina Slone, teacher, Hindman Elementary, Hindman (Knott Co.)

### **Policy Issues and Options:**

According to KRS 156.405(2), the State Textbook Commission is required to have ten members. As of June 1, 2008, the terms of Dennis Pearce, Jennifer Mattingly, Rhonda Boyd, and Mary Mills-Turner will end, creating four vacancies on the Commission.

If these four members are approved, the composition of the State Textbook Commission will represent all areas of the state, will consist of one (1) male and nine (9) females, will be composed of one (1) African-American and nine (9) Caucasians, and meet the requirements set forth in statute.

Options are:

1. Approve the appointments.
2. Delay action and request new applicants.
3. Deny the appointments.

### **Staff Recommendation and Rationale:**

Staff proposes that the board approve the appointments of the following persons to the State Textbook Commission. Each applicant is fully qualified to be a member of the Commission.

Donna R. Lovell is the Director of District-wide Services in Berea. Ms. Lovell has been a district level administrator for 9 years and has taught for 14 years. She believes textbooks and instructional materials are resources for both teachers and students and should enhance the learning that takes place in the classroom. She stated in her application that textbooks and other instructional materials are resources for units of study and should be aligned to state and national standards.

Cheryl W. Smith is a parent from Hardin County. Ms. Smith is active in her district/school PTA and works closely the Family Resource Centers in her county. She believes that textbooks serve as a guide for teachers to assist them with their instructional program. Ms. Smith stated in her application that textbooks should be aligned with state and national standards.

Dr. Deneia Thomas serves as Assistant Professor in the College of Education in Counseling and Educational Psychology at Eastern Kentucky University. Dr. Thomas has a vast array of experiences serving within K-12 schools, the Kentucky Department of Education, and Higher Education. She has 2 sons attending Fayette County Schools. Dr. Thomas is active in the community and involved in her children's school to promote student learning. She has an excellent foundation and learning background as an educator, researcher, administrator, and parent.

Barbara M. Waltrip is a teacher from Daviess County. Ms. Waltrip has been teaching for 7 years. She has taught third and fourth grades as well as serving as the Title I teacher at Audubon Elementary School. Ms. Waltrip serves on many different cadre teams for her

district. These include technology, social studies, science, writing cluster leader, and reading. She believes textbooks are a resource and supplement for instruction and they should be aligned with national, state, and local standards.

**Impact on Getting to Proficiency:**

This process ensures that teachers and students have access to the most current instructional resources in a variety of formats and learning levels.

**Contact Person:**

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**Deputy Commissioner**

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**Commissioner of Education**

**Date:**

April 2008